GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN, BRISBANE. BULLETIN NO. 8 OF 1942.

Confidential until released for publication as under:-

Evening Papers : 24th October, 1942.
Morning Papers : 26th October, 1942.

RETAIL PRICES - SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 1942.

All Items - "C" Series.

Index Numbers for September Quarter 1942 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 1044, Toowoomba 1043, Rockhampton 1035, Townsville 1081, Bundaberg 1021, Charters Towers 1057, and Warwick 1017.

The above figures show the following percentage increases as compared with the dates shown.

City.	September Quarter, 1942 - Percentage Compared with		
	Year Ended June, 1939.	September Quarter 1941.	June Quarter 1942.
Brisbane	20.07	8.52	2.35

It has been decided, owing to the war, to omit figures of Commonwealth and State Government Building from future Bulletins.

The attached Bulletin has been prepared so that comparative figures may be readily available for past years.

City.	Percentage Increase on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase on June Qr. 1942.	Percentage Increase on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase on June Qr. 1942.	Percentage Increase on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase on June Qr. 1942.
Brisbane ..	15.07	2.82	59.35	4.43	12.83	0.85
Toowoomba ..	18.06	1.16	59.35	3.53	13.94	1.36
Rockhampton	10.17	- 0.30	59.17	3.54	15.62	1.45
Townsville..	10.58	0.28	58.69	3.49	12.34	0.45
Bundaberg ..	13.95	0.19	59.00	3.81	12.61	1.09
Ch. Towers..	10.76	0.86	55.29	3.13	12.58	0.71
Warwick ..	14.07	0.31	55.18	3.69	15.47	0.78

Food and Rent (4 and 5 Roomed Houses) - "B" Series.

Index Numbers for September Quarter, 1942 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 935, Toowoomba 919, Rockhampton 898, Townsville 979, Bundaberg 879, Charters Towers 894, and Warwick 863.

From June Quarter, 1942 to September Quarter, 1942 this index fell in Rockhampton (0.22%) but showed the following percentage increases in the other towns - Brisbane 1.85, Toowoomba 0.77, Townsville 0.20, Bundaberg 0.11, Charters Towers 0.56, and Warwick 0.94.

The Food and Grocery Index also showed a decrease in Rockhampton (0.30%) but rose in the other cities by the following percentages - Brisbane 2.82, Toowoomba 1.16, Townsville 0.28, Bundaberg 0.19, Charters Towers 0.86, Warwick 0.31. The decrease in Rockhampton was due to a fall in the price of eggs and beef.

Rents fell slightly in Bundaberg (0.31%). There was no change in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville, and Charters Towers, but Toowoomba (0.12%) and Warwick (2.01%) both showed increases.

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Index Numbers for September Quarter 1942 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 in the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 1044, Toowoomba 1043, Rockhampton 1035, Townsville 1081, Bundaberg 1021, Charters Towers 1057, and Warwick 1017.

The above figures show the following percentage increases as compared with the dates shown.

City.	September Quarter, 1942 - Percentage Compared with		
	Year Ended June, 1939.	September Quarter 1941.	June Quarter 1942.
Brisbane	20.97	8.52	2.35
Toowoomba	22.56	9.56	1.66
Rockhampton ..	20.21	7.81	1.17
Townsville	18.53	7.67	1.12
Bundaberg	21.40	8.62	1.39
Charters Towers ..	22.91	8.97	1.44
Warwick	23.72	9.59	1.70

Food and groceries, clothing and footwear, and the miscellaneous group of items comprising household drapery and hardware, fuel, light, fares, etc. have shown the following percentage increases during the last quarter and since 1938-39.

City.	Food and Groceries		Clothing and Footwear		Miscellaneous Items	
	Percentage Increase on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase on June Qr. 1942.	Percentage Increase on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase on June Qr. 1942.	Percentage Increase on Year Ended June, 1939.	Percentage Increase on June Qr. 1942.
Brisbane ..	15.07	2.82	59.35	4.43	12.83	0.85
Toowoomba ..	18.06	1.16	59.35	3.53	13.94	1.36
Rockhampton	10.17	- 0.30	59.17	3.54	15.62	1.45
Townsville..	10.58	0.28	58.69	3.49	12.34	0.45
Bundaberg ..	13.95	0.19	59.00	3.81	12.61	1.09
Ch. Towers..	10.76	0.86	55.29	3.13	12.58	0.71
Warwick ..	14.07	0.31	55.18	3.69	15.47	0.78

Food and Rent (4 and 5 Roomed Houses) - "B" Series.

Index Numbers for September Quarter, 1942 (with base 1000 in 1923-27 for the six State Capitals) were Brisbane 935, Toowoomba 919, Rockhampton 898, Townsville 979, Bundaberg 879, Charters Towers 894, and Warwick 863.

From June Quarter, 1942 to September Quarter, 1942 this index fell in Rockhampton (0.22%) but showed the following percentage increases in the other towns - Brisbane 1.85, Toowoomba 0.77, Townsville 0.20, Bundaberg 0.11, Charters Towers 0.56, and Warwick 0.94.

The Food and Grocery Index also showed a decrease in Rockhampton (0.30%) but rose in the other cities by the following percentages - Brisbane 2.82, Toowoomba 1.16, Townsville 0.28, Bundaberg 0.19, Charters Towers 0.86, Warwick 0.31. The decrease in Rockhampton was due to a fall in the price of eggs and beef.

Rents fell slightly in Bundaberg (0.31%). There was no change in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Townsville, and Charters Towers, but Toowoomba (0.12%) and Warwick (2.01%) both showed increases.

Compared with September Quarter, 1941 the combined Food and Rent Index showed the following percentage increases - Brisbane 6.74, Toowoomba 8.63, Rockhampton 5.28, Townsville 6.30, Bundaberg 6.29, Charters Towers 8.63, and Warwick 6.81.

The Food and Groceries Index rose by the following percentages - Brisbane 10.67, Toowoomba 13.86, Rockhampton 8.00, Townsville 9.89, Bundaberg 8.89, Charters Towers 10.99, and Warwick 9.16.

The Rent Index also showed increases in all towns, the percentage increases being Brisbane 0.35, Toowoomba 0.47, Rockhampton 0.26, Townsville 0.12, Bundaberg 0.15, Charters Towers 3.05, and Warwick 2.16.

Compared with the index for the year 1938-39 the percentage increases in rents were - Brisbane 1.41, Toowoomba 2.63, Rockhampton 2.00, Townsville 0.58, Bundaberg 1.40, Charters Towers 23.98, and Warwick 9.08.

Comparison of Costs in the Queensland Cities.

The following table shows the amounts necessary in September Quarter, 1942 to purchase what would have cost £1 in Brisbane.

City.	All Items.	Food and Groceries.	Rent (4 and 5 Rooms).	Clothing and Footwear.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brisbane	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0	1. 0. 0
Toowoomba	1. 0. 0	19. 6	19.11	1. 0. 0
Rockhampton ..	19.10	1. 0. 0	17. 9	1. 0. 4
Townsville ..	1. 0. 9	1. 1. 5	1. 0. 1	1. 0. 2
Bundaberg	19. 7	1. 0.11	15. 1	1. 0. 2
Charters Towers ..	1. 0. 3	1. 1. 6	14.10	1. 0. 0
Warwick	19. 6	19. 7	16. 5	1. 0. 0

Comparison of Commonwealth and States Basic Wages.

In the following statement comparisons are made between the prevailing basic wages in the various Capital Cities and States. The margins between the Brisbane (or Queensland) figure and the other figures in these columns show the advantage to the Queensland State Basic Wage earner.

State	METROPOLITAN				STATE AVERAGES c.			
	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Brisbane	Actual Basic Wage	Margin in Favour of Brisbane	Price Index Nos. "C" Series	Amount Required to give same standard of living as current State Basic Wage in Queensland	State Basic Wage	Margin in Favour of Q'land.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	s. d.
Queensland	1044	4.14. 0	4.14. 0a	-	1045	4.14. 8	4.14. 8	-
N. S. W.	1122	5. 1. 0	4.17. 0a	4. 0	1118	5. 1. 3	4.17. 0	4. 3
Victoria	1118	5. 0. 8	4.17. 0b	3. 8	1113	5. 0.10	4.16.10	4. 0
South Aust.	1093	4.18. 5	4. 7. 0a	11. 5	1087	4.18. 6	4. 7. 0	11. 6
West Aust.	1077	4.17. 0	4.14.11a	2. 1	1085	4.18. 3	4.15. 8	2. 7
Tasmania	1089	4.18. 1	4.12. 0b	6. 1	1071	4.17. 0	4.11. 0	6. 0

a. Current State Basic Wage.

b. Commonwealth Basic Wage, applicable from first pay period of August 1942. This rate is generally followed in State Awards in these States.

c. Average for 5 principal cities in each State, weighted by population.

RETAIL PRICES INDEX.

Table No. 1.

THE "ALL ITEMS" INDEX - "C" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

City	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending June 1939	Year Ending Sept. 1942	QUARTERS ENDING Sept. 1941	Dec. 1941	March 1942	June 1942	Sept. 1942
Brisbane	917	863	1015	962	985	1011	1020	1044
Toowoomba	906	851	1012	952	972	1008	1026	1043
Rockhampton ..	903	861	1013	960	976	1017	1023	1035
Townsville ..	1023	912	1056	1004	1025	1050	1069	1081
Bundaberg	(b)	841	995	940	960	993	1007	1021
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a) ..	915	864	1017	964	985	1013	1023	1045
Charters Towers ..	925	860	1027	970	992	1018	1042	1057
Warwick	914	822	985	928	943	981	1000	1017

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September quarter 1936.

Table No. 2. FOOD, GROCERIES AND RENT (4 AND 5 ROOMED HOUSES) - "B" SERIES.

(Base = 1000 in 1923-27 in Six State Capitals).

City	Year Ending Decr. 1928	Year Ending June 1939	Year Ending Sept. 1942	QUARTERS ENDING Sept. 1941	Dec. 1941	March 1942	June 1942	Sept. 1942
Brisbane	901	852	918	876	895	925	918	935
Toowoomba	833	821	901	846	865	909	912	919
Rockhampton ..	858	837	893	853	866	907	900	898
Townsville ..	1047	916	964	921	937	963	977	979
Bundaberg	(b)	799	868	827	842	874	878	879
Weighted Average - Five Cities (a) ..	892	851	917	874	892	923	919	932
Charters Towers ..	942	783	875	823	844	873	889	894
Warwick	841	768	847	808	819	849	855	863

(a) Prior to 1937 the five towns in the weighted averages included Charters Towers and Warwick which have now been replaced by Townsville and Bundaberg.

(b) Prices for Bundaberg were not collected prior to September Quarter 1936.

Table No. 3. AVERAGE RETAIL PRICES - FOOD AND GROCERIES.

Brisbane.

Commodity & Unit of Quantity	Year Ending June 1939	MONTH OF June 1942	MONTH OF Sept. 1942	Commodity & Unit of Quantity	Year Ending June 1939	MONTH OF June 1942	MONTH OF Sept. 1942
	d.	d.	d.		d.	d.	d.
Bread .. 2 lb.	5.33	5.75	5.50	Milk .. 1 qt.	6.00	6.80	6.85
Flour .. 2 lb.	3.73	4.05	4.05	Bacon (Rashers) 1 lb.	14.81	16.23	17.05
Tea .. 1 lb.	26.99	39.68	39.68	Beef - Sirloin Roast .. 1 lb.	8.73	10.25	10.45
Sugar .. 1 lb.	3.98	3.97	3.98	Beef - Steak Rump .. 1 lb.	11.34	14.05	14.55
Jam (Plum) .. 1½ lb.	8.02	9.68	9.79	Beef - Rolled Brisket .. 1 lb.	5.48	6.95	6.90
Raisins .. 1 lb.	10.57	11.77	11.80	Mutton - leg 1 lb.	7.75	7.30	7.80
Potatoes .. 7 lb.	14.88	17.18	22.77	Mutton - chops Loin .. 1 lb.	7.78	7.65	8.05
Onions .. 1 lb.	2.93	5.83	7.30	Pork - Leg 1 lb.	11.40	12.15	14.89
Soap .. 1 lb.	6.20	6.24	6.88				
Butter .. 1 lb.	19.00	20.00	20.00				
Cheese .. 1 lb.	13.28	14.95	14.73				
Eggs .. 1doz.	19.69	26.73	20.64				

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN'S OFFICE,
BRISBANE.

23rd October, 1942.